

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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JAPAN BAPTISTS PLAN EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGNS

Japanese Baptist pastors and layman met at Amagi Baptist Assembly, on the Izu Peninsula, June 1-3, to prepare for evangelistic campaigns scheduled for October, 1966, and April, 1967.

Dr. H. Franklin Paschall, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., was the inspirational speaker for the Amagi conference, and Rev. Joseph B. Underwood, consultant in evangelism and church development for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, led the study of evangelistic methods.

60 churches are expected to participate in the campaigns of October and 40 in April. Japanese pastors and missionaries will do most of the preaching, assisted by musicians and laymen from the States.

SALVATION ARMY HONORS PIONEER IN FIGHT AGAINST VICE AS JAPAN MARKS TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTI-PROSTITUTION LAW

A celebration in Tokyo on May 24 marked the tenth anniversary of the enactment of Japan's Anti-Prostitution Law. Ten days earlier the Salvation Army and the Japan National Women's Christian Temperance Union united to combine their observance with a special meeting commemorating the life and work of Kiyeko Sato Yamamuro, a pioneer in the struggle against vice and an early figure in the temperance movement.

In 1900 the Salvation Army began to fight in Japan for a "free cessation" of licenced prostitution. A number of Salvationists were beaten by brothel keepers, among them Kiyeko's husband, the celebrated Gunpei Yamamuro, a former printer's devil who was one of the first Japanese officers in the "Army".

As a result of the campaign and subsequent publicity the Japanese Government, in the first of a series of steps eventually leading to abolition, issued an "Imperial Ordinance" providing a path of escape for prostitutes. Kiyeko Yamamuro became the superintendent of a rescue home, one of many which came into being following adoption of the Ordinance. In this home she taught honest ways of making a living and sought the conversion of her charges.

The commemorative meeting was held at Tokyo's Salvation Army Evangeline Hall. Among the speaker were Mrs. Ochimi Kubushiro of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Dr. Kuniyoshi Obara, president of Tamagawa University, and Colonel Yasoo Segawa of the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army Band and choral organizations provided music.

NCC AND KYODAN PROTEST PROPOSED NATIONAL HOLIDAY REVISION

Leaders of the Japan National Christian Council and the United Church of Christ (Kyodan) have lodged a telegram protest with Premier Sato over a proposed revision of the National Holidays Law which would reestablish an old nationalist and militarist tradition.

At issue is the perennial post-war Diet proposal to set February 11 as "Founders' Day". The date was celebrated until the end of World War II as the "anniversary" of the mythical founding of Japan by the Sun Goddess Jimmu. The annual event once served to reinforce the semidivine position the Emperor occupied in pre-war Japanese thinking.

PLANS FOR INTERDENOMINATION CENTER PUSHED AT TOKYO MEETING

Denominational representatives met in Tokyo on May 2 to discuss plans for building an 8-story interchurch center in the Kanda section of Tokyo. In attendance at the meeting were representatives of the Japan YMCA, the Bible Society, the NCC Literature Commission and the Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Japan, as well as Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran and other denominational groups.

If the center is built a site will be utilized which is now owned by the United Church of Christ.

TWENTY MILLION YEN DONATED TOWARD CHURCH CONSTRUCTION

Matsuji Okushi, an 85-year-old executive of a Tokyo dairy company, donated 20 million yen (\$55,000) last month toward costs of construction for a new preaching point at Shinanomachi congregation of the United Church of Christ in Japan.

The new structure, located in the Chofu-shi district, will be completed in September.

THE WORD ON WHEELS

The Jordan Press, publication organ of the Japan Baptist Convention, is now operating a Bookmobile in Tokyo. Designed to aid in the distribution of the Bible and Christian literature, the Bookmobile is the first of a fleet of these "rolling libraries" which will be on regular routes all over Japan. This Bookmobile helps in meeting the need for Christian literature, yet avoiding the land prices of a local book store. The mobiles will later have loud speakers, visual aids, and be used for evangelistic services as well.

KYODAN MISSIONARY COMMENTS ON FIVE YEARS IN GERMAN CHURCH

Kenji Ozaki has a heavy-lidded face as full of crags and hollows as the figures in the fishermen's temples which line his country's coasts. You expect to learn that he is a Buddhist or a Shinto priest, but he is a pastor of the United Church of Christ in Japan and a missionary--just back from five-years in "darkest" Hamburg, Germany.

What takes a man from the Orient to the West as a missionary? Kenji's brow wrinkles even more deeply as he ponders the question. Then he begins:

"Before I went to Germany I believed that the work of the Spirit of Christ in the mind of a Japanese pastor would release thoughts of value not only in Japan but also in Europe, or anywhere else in the world. After all, the Church's work is God's work for the world, not the assignment of any particular nation but of men from all nations.

"I say that I thought this before I went to Germany. But actually I believed these things only in my head; not in my heart. Down deep I thought the Germans already had a Church which was almost perfect in quality, quantity, and in theology. I believed the German Church had great influence in society. In such a situation I doubted that I could make a contribution to the Faith of the German people."

The 39-year-old graduate of Doshisha University paused a moment to rumple the hair of his German-speaking child. Then he continued:

"Now that doubt is gone. It disappeared in my "Sprech Stunde", the hour and one-half each morning when I, like every other pastor in Germany, was "at home" for counselling in my study. People came to me--people of all ages and occupations. They brought me their questions about Baptism, Communion, unbelief in their families, problems of marriage, and fears about war. They came to me especially: you see, they already knew the answers their own pastors would give to their questions, but they could not be sure of the answers I would give. Though my comments were often indetical to those of German pastors, the words were new from my lips, because I was a Japanese..."

What did Pastor Ozaki learn about the German Church and about Christianity in the West?

"...I learned that the standard of theology is very high; that the number of pew holders is high; that the Church's position in society is well established and secure... But when I looked into the social structure I learned that not very many people belong to church after all, proportionately, and that for many who do belong Faith is a superficial matter. Knowledge of theology of lay people doesn't seem to carry over into life. Though I must observe that society in

some sense is "Christianized", I must also admit to doubt that the Christianization goes much beyond baptism, marriage, and other rites of the Church."

Anything else, Pastor Ozaki?

"Yes: I discovered that in the German subconscious there is much Christian influence which we lack in Japan. In Germany people are very critical of the social order in a way not found in Japan. I can describe my meaning by describing a scale; On the one hand there are the practices of society; on the other (in Germany) is the individual conscience acting as a censor. In Japan we lack that censor: The other side of our scale is weighted with obligations and "oughtnesses" developed out of our old feudalistic society."

Sayonara from Tokyo!